

# Memorandum

Date: September 12, 2008  
Telephone: (916) 651-0965

To: Commissioner Jeffrey Byron, Presiding Member  
Commissioner James D. Boyd, Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission – Che McFarlin, Project Manager  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**DOCKET**  
**07-AFC-5**

DATE Sept. 12, 2008

RECD. Sept. 12, 2008

Subject: **STATUS REPORT #4**  
**IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM (07-AFC-5)**

The following is staff's Status Report #4 for the proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and California Energy Commission staffs are continuing to gather necessary information and perform the analyses for the Preliminary Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PSA/DEIS).

## Milestones Since Status Report #3

Staff continues to work with the BLM and applicant to complete the discovery and analysis phase of the Application for Certification (AFC) review as follows:

- August 5, 2008 – Staff and BLM met with the applicant's civil engineers to review the draft Drainage, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Plan to ensure that the agencies drainage and erosion concerns are adequately addressed.

## Data Responses

The data responses submitted to date have provided staff with much of the information necessary to complete the preliminary analysis. Where information is still lacking, the applicant has provided staff with anticipated filing dates.

- July 22, 2008 – Applicant filed 'Set 2B Data Responses' which included updated grading, drainage, and erosion control information as well as information necessary to complete the preliminary alternatives analysis.
- July 22, 2008 – Applicant filed 'Set 1E Data Responses' which included some of the outstanding biological resources information.
- August 7, 2008 – Applicant filed 'Set 1F Data Responses' which included the draft weed management plan.
- August 7, 2008 – Applicant filed 'Set 2C Data Responses' which included the information necessary to complete the preliminary visual resources analysis.

Some additional grading, drainage, and erosion control information was also provided.

- August 12, 2008 – Applicant filed ‘Supplemental Data Responses 1A’ which included responses to questions raised at the Data Response and Issues Resolution workshop on June 23, 2008.
- August 22, 2008 – Applicant filed ‘Supplemental Data Responses 1B’ which included additional responses to questions raised at the Data Response and Issues Resolution workshop on June 23, 2008.
- September 11, 2008 – Applicant filed ‘Set 1G Data Responses, which contains the Revised Wetland Delineation Report that is being submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers.

#### Pending Data Requests

The following is a list of incomplete data responses or data requests to which no response has yet been received.

- Biological Resources: 18, 20, 24, 29, 30, 31, 124
  - Data Requests # 18, 20, 24, 29, and 124 need to be answered prior to publishing the PSA.
- Cultural Resources: 33, 37, 41, 126-129
  - Data Requests # 33, 37, 41, and 126-129 need to be answered prior to publishing the PSA.
- Land Use: 51, 52
  - The responses to date are sufficient to inform the PSA.
- Project Description: 130, 131
  - Data Requests # 130 and 131 need to be answered prior to publishing the PSA.
- Site Closure and Restoration Plan: 125
  - The response to date is sufficient to inform the PSA.
- Soil and Water Resources: 53-56, 58, 139, 140
  - The responses to date are sufficient to inform the PSA.
- Waste Management: 111, 113-116
  - The responses to date are sufficient to inform the PSA.

- Transmission System Engineering: 92, 93
  - Data Requests # 92 and 93 need to be answered prior to publishing the PSA.
- Visual Resources: 105, 106
  - The responses to date are sufficient to inform the PSA.

In a conference call on September 10, 2008 with BLM and staff, the applicant stated its intent to file much of the outstanding information by the week of September 15th.

### Schedule

Staff recommends the following schedule for publication of the PSA/DEIS. This schedule assumes an 8-10 week timeframe for BLM (Washington Office) approval of the Notice of Availability (NOA). The NOA is required for publishing a notice of the DEIS in the Federal Register. Based on experience, BLM staff believes that 8-10 weeks is realistic for Washington Office's approval of the NOA. Staff would note that a repeat of the NOA process is required prior to publishing the Final Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, because an amendment to the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan is required to allow for the project, there is a mandated 90-day comment period for the DEIS. The schedule below presumes that the remaining outstanding information identified above as necessary for publication of the PSA is submitted by September 22, 2008. Any delay beyond that date would have a corresponding day-for-day slip on the proposed schedule. Staff will begin forwarding completed draft PSA sections to the BLM for review starting early the week of September 15th. The BLM and Energy Commission are committed to exploring ways to expedite our review of the project following the publication of the PSA/DEIS.

Applicant submits outstanding information needed for PSA	Sep 22, 2008
BLM submits Biological Assessment to USFWS	Sep 30, 2008
PSA/DEIS completed	Nov 14, 2008
BLM NOA of DEIS sent to WO and ASLM (8-10 week process)	Nov 14, 2008
NOA filed in Federal Register	Jan 20, 2009
PSA/DEIS published (90 day comment period)	Jan 20, 2009*

Acronyms: NOA = Notice of Availability, WO = BLM Washington Office, ASLM = Assistant Secretary of Lands and Minerals

\* We will work to file the PSA/DEIS earlier in the month of January if it is possible to do so.

cc: Docket (07-AFC-5)  
Proof of Service List

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5

PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 7/14/08)

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall 1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies OR 2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the web address below, AND 3) all parties shall also send a printed OR electronic copy of the documents that shall include a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service:

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## DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on September 12, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (07-AFC-5) Status Report #4 in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

OR

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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Original Signed in Dockets  
Maria Santourdjian